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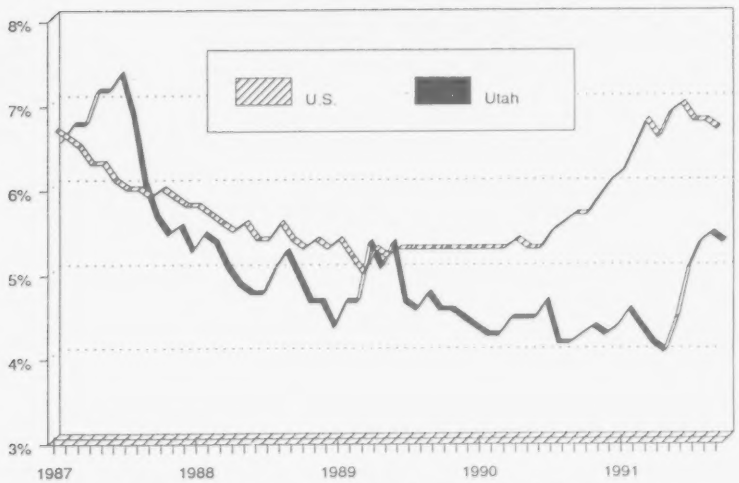
Utah Labor Market Report

September 1991
Volume 1, No. 9

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

As we forecasted in August—September unemployment fell in the Beehive State

Although several industries continue to suffer from the effects of the national recession, job growth remains in the moderate range.

Utah's unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a point to 5.3 percent in September. We expected jobless figures would begin dropping as the nation showed signs of turning the economic corner. Although unemployment in Utah rose sharply (almost one and one-half percentage points) from an 11-year low of 4.0 percent in April of this year until August, most of the increase occurred because of people entering or re-entering the work force—not from layoffs.

However, while Utah hasn't escaped the shock waves of the national downturn, the State has managed to avoid a recession of its own. Utah's unemployment rate still falls nearly a point and a half below the national average. Perhaps more importantly, the State has continued to produce jobs at a moderate rate. Growth in jobs is often a better indicator of economic health than the jobless rate.

Nevertheless, approximately 42,700 Utahns were out of work during September—up nearly 30 percent over the past 12 months. Not surprisingly, the State's jobless rate has jumped more than a percentage point from the September 1990 figure of 4.2 percent.

Utah has created 24,600 jobs over the past 12 months. The State's 3.3 percent growth rate is slower than that experienced at the beginning of the year, but still strong enough to demonstrate Utah's relative economic well-being. During the recent recessionary period, the U.S. has lost 1.2 million jobs. Yet, Utah still manages to produce new employment at a moderate rate.

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THE RATE *(Seasonally Adjusted)*

Sep 1991	Utah	5.3%	U.S.	6.7%
Aug 1991	Utah	5.4%	U.S.	6.8%
Sep 1990	Utah	4.2%	U.S.	5.7%

NONFARM JOBS *(% change from a year ago)*

Sep 1991	Utah	3.3%	U.S.	-1.1%

CPI-U *(Base Year 1982-84 = 100)*

Aug 1991	U.S.	136.6	Yr-over chng	3.8%

PPI *(Base Year 1982-84 = 100)*

Aug 1991	U.S.	116.2	Yr-over chng	-0.3%

Of course, a number of Utah's industries have felt the crush of the national recessionary weight—particularly manufacturing and mining—and defense cutbacks have meant declining federal jobs. However, no major sector experienced employment losses between September 1990 and September 1991.

Instead of contracting during the national recession, the surprising construction industry shows the highest growth rate of any major industry—over 8 percent. Strong housing and nonresidential activity added 2,600 net new jobs.

Services still added the largest number of new positions to the Utah economy—over 10,300 jobs. Very strong expansion in business services, computer services (software companies), and personal/amusement services helped push this sector's growth rate to almost 6 percent.

Finance/insurance/real estate and trade registered moderate growth rates of 4 percent and 3 percent respectively. Finance/insurance/real estate growth occurred exclusively in nonbanking businesses—particularly in financial card services. Retail trade added most of the 5,100 new trade jobs.

The public sector added 3,500 new positions to its payrolls over the past 12 months despite the loss of 2,100 federal defense jobs. Combined employment gains of 4,400 state and local government jobs generated a 2.5 percent expansion rate for the public sector.

Declines in communications and utilities employment kept transportation/communications/utilities growth down near 2 percent. Gains in transportation-related businesses added 700 new Utah jobs.

Manufacturing held on to a growth rate of just under 1 percent. In light of a long string of national manufacturing job losses, Utah's addition of 900 production jobs is promising.

Coal mine closures kept mining employment flat between September 1990 and September 1991. However, on a positive note, increased oil exploration activity helped offset the employment losses from coal mining.

Generally, Utah's labor market is sound economic shape despite problems in certain defense and recession-prone industries. As the national economy gets back on its feet again, Utah should start to participate in an even better economic experience.❐

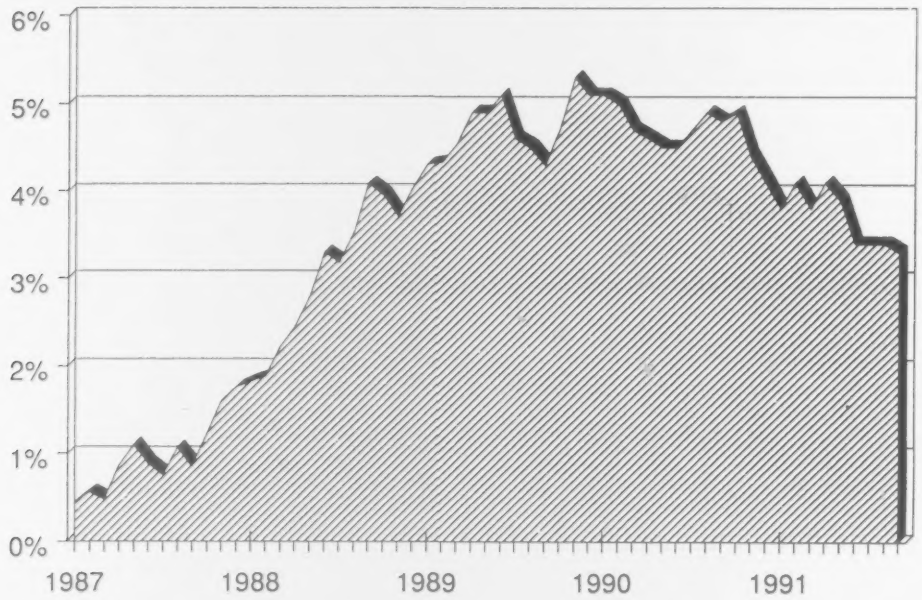
■ *Utah continues as one of the top job producers in the nation with a year-over nonfarm job growth rate of 3.3 percent—24,600 jobs.*

■ *Utah's unemployment dropped for the first time since April.*

■ *The one-tenth of a point drop to 5.3 percent places Utah's unemployment rate nearly a point and a half below the national average.*

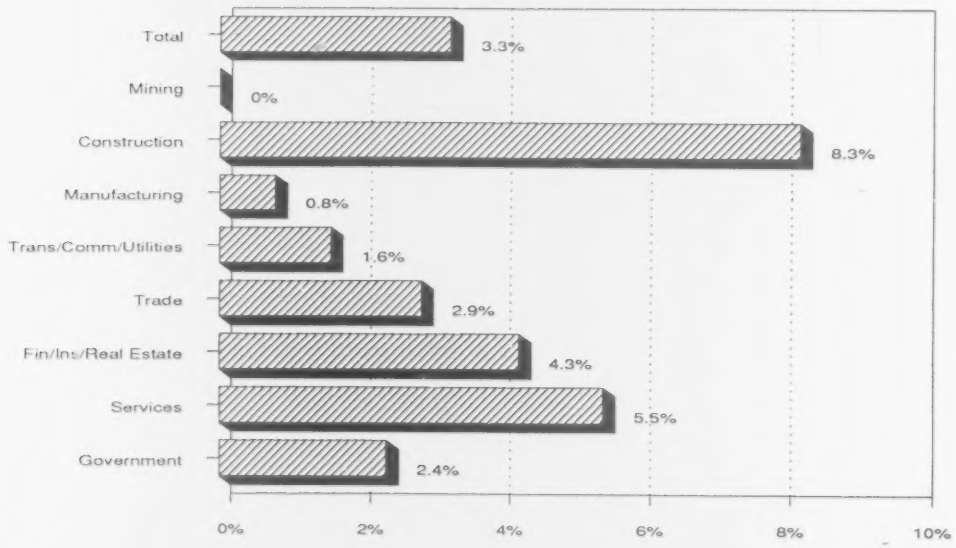
■ *With 8 percent expansion since September 1990, construction is the fastest growing Utah industry.*

Year-Over Percent Change in Utah Nonfarm Jobs



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

September 1990-91 Percent Growth In Utah Nonfarm Jobs by Industry



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

RAW

Table 1. Utah Civilian Labor Force and Nonagricultural Jobs, Not Seasonally Adjusted *(Numbers in Thousands)*

	Sep 1991(r)	Sep 1990	Percent Change	Aug 1991(p)	July 1991(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	**818.0**	**808.2**	**1.2**	**819.0**	**812.5**
Employed	**777.8**	**776.9**	**0.1**	**776.1**	**770.0**
Unemployed	**40.2**	**31.3**	**28.4**	**42.9**	**42.5**
Percent of Labor Force	4.9	3.9	—	5.2	5.2
NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS	**761.7**	**737.1**	**3.3**	**749.1**	**741.8**
Mining	**8.9**	**8.9**	**0.0**	**8.7**	**8.6**
Metal Mining	3.1	3.1	0.0	3.1	3.0
Bituminous Coal Mining	2.3	2.5	-8.0	2.3	2.4
Oil/Gas Extraction & Quarrying*	3.5	3.3	6.1	3.3	3.2
Contract Construction	**33.8**	**31.2**	**8.3**	**33.8**	**32.3**
Manufacturing	**109.8**	**108.9**	**0.8**	**109.4**	**108.5**
Durable Goods	72.6	72.4	0.3	72.3	71.8
Primary Metals	*6.2*	*6.0*	*3.3*	*6.1*	*6.1*
Fabricated Metals, Machinery, & Computers	*14.3*	*14.3*	*0.0*	*14.3*	*14.0*
Electrical/Electric Equipment (ex. Computers)	*10.9*	*11.7*	*-6.8*	*11.0*	*11.3*
Transportation Equipment	*17.5*	*18.0*	*-2.8*	*17.4*	*17.4*
*Lumber/Furniture,Stone/Clay/Glass**	*10.7*	*10.9*	*-1.8*	*10.8*	*10.6*
*Other Durable Goods**	*13.0*	*11.5*	*13.0*	*12.7*	*12.4*
Nondurable Goods	37.2	36.5	1.9	37.1	36.7
Food & Related Products	*12.2*	*12.2*	*0.0*	*12.2*	*12.0*
*Other Nondurable Goods**	*25.0*	*24.3*	*2.9*	*24.9*	*24.7*
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	**43.2**	**42.5**	**1.6**	**43.2**	**42.9**
Railroad Transportation	2.5	2.4	4.2	2.5	2.5
Trucking & Warehousing	16.0	15.4	3.9	16.0	15.7
Transportation by Air*	7.1	7.0	1.4	7.1	7.0
Other Transportation & Related Services*	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
Communications	6.9	7.0	-1.4	6.9	7.0
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	7.5	7.6	-1.3	7.4	7.4
Trade	**181.4**	**176.3**	**2.9**	**180.1**	**177.4**
Wholesale Trade	39.9	39.4	1.3	39.9	39.6
*Durable Goods**	*23.1*	*23.1*	*0.0*	*23.2*	*23.0*
*Nondurable Goods**	*16.8*	*16.3*	*3.1*	*16.7*	*16.6*
Retail Trade	141.5	136.9	3.4	140.2	137.8
Food Stores	*25.6*	*25.0*	*2.4*	*25.2*	*24.9*
Auto Dealers/Parts Stores, & Gas Stations	*16.6*	*16.5*	*0.6*	*16.6*	*16.4*
Eating & Drinking Places	*45.7*	*44.5*	*2.7*	*45.8*	*45.1*
*Home Furniture/Equipment & Clothing Stores**	*12.4*	*11.2*	*10.7*	*12.4*	*12.2*
*Gen. Merchandise/Building & Garden Supply**	*21.9*	*22.0*	*-0.5*	*21.7*	*21.3*
Miscellaneous Retail	*19.3*	*17.7*	*9.0*	*18.5*	*17.9*
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	**36.1**	**34.6**	**4.3**	**36.1**	**35.6**
Depository Institutions*	13.2	13.2	0.0	13.3	13.2
Other Finance/Insurance/Real Estate*	22.9	21.4	7.0	22.8	22.4
Services	**196.1**	**185.8**	**5.5**	**193.5**	**192.2**
Hotels & Lodging Places	12.6	12.3	2.4	12.8	12.6
Personal, Amusement & Recreational*	19.2	18.1	6.1	19.5	19.2
Computer-Related*	9.1	8.5	7.1	9.2	9.2
Other Business Services*	32.6	30.1	8.3	32.1	32.0
Auto Repair/Rental/Parking*	7.2	6.9	4.3	7.2	7.2
Health	49.4	46.7	5.8	49.1	48.6
Education/Social & Membership Organizations*	39.0	37.6	3.7	36.3	36.0
Legal & Miscellaneous Services	4.8	4.7	2.1	4.9	4.9
Engineering, Accounting, & Related*	15.6	14.8	5.4	15.7	15.8
Other Repair/Ag. Services & Museums, etc.*	6.6	6.1	8.2	6.7	6.7
Government	**152.4**	**148.9**	**2.4**	**144.3**	**144.3**
Federal Government	38.9	39.8	-2.3	39.5	39.6
*U.S. Defense**	*18.8*	*20.9*	*-10.0*	*19.3*	*19.3*
*Other Federal**	*20.1*	*18.9*	*6.3*	*20.2*	*20.3*
State Government	41.9	39.8	5.3	42.0	42.0
*State Education**	*21.5*	*20.3*	*5.9*	*21.6*	*21.7*
*Other State**	*20.4*	*19.5*	*4.6*	*20.4*	*20.3*
Local Government	71.6	69.3	3.3	62.8	62.7
*Public School Districts**	*44.9*	*43.5*	*3.2*	*35.4*	*35.3*
*Other Local**	*26.7*	*25.8*	*3.5*	*27.4*	*27.4*

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). NOTE: Forecast data and cells marked by an asterisk (*) are not sanctioned by BLS.

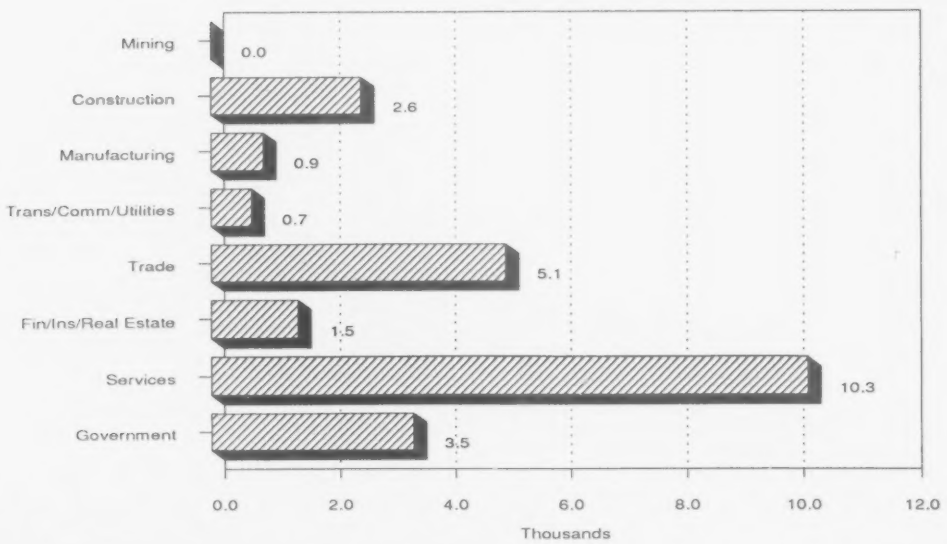
ADJUSTED

Table 2. Utah Civilian Labor Force and Nonagricultural Jobs Seasonally Adjusted *(Numbers In Thousands)*

	Sep 1991(r)	Sep 1990	Percent Change	Aug 1991(p)	Jul 1991(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	**804.7**	**794.5**	**1.3**	**811.1**	**806.2**
Employed	**762.0**	**761.2**	**0.1**	**767.5**	**763.8**
Unemployed	**42.7**	**33.3**	**28.2**	**43.6**	**42.4**
Percent of Labor Force	5.3	4.2	—	5.4	5.3
NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS	**754.2**	**730.0**	**3.3**	**750.2**	**746.8**
Mining	**8.9**	**8.9**	**0.0**	**9.0**	**9.1**
Contract Construction	**30.1**	**27.8**	**8.3**	**30.3**	**29.9**
Manufacturing	**108.7**	**107.8**	**0.8**	**108.4**	**108.2**
Durable Goods	72.0	71.8	0.3	71.6	71.4
Nondurable Goods	36.7	36.0	1.9	36.8	36.8
Trans., Comm., Public Utilities	**42.8**	**42.1**	**1.6**	**42.6**	**42.6**
Trade	**180.0**	**174.9**	**2.9**	**178.9**	**177.4**
Wholesale	39.5	39.0	1.3	39.5	39.2
Retail	140.4	135.9	3.4	139.4	138.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**36.0**	**35.4**	**4.3**	**35.8**	**35.5**
Services	**193.4**	**183.2**	**5.5**	**194.0**	**193.0**
Government	**154.5**	**150.8**	**2.4**	**151.3**	**151.2**
Federal Government	38.7	39.6	-2.3	39.1	39.1
State Government	44.2	42.0	5.3	44.9	45.0
Local Government	71.5	69.2	3.3	67.3	67.1

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

September 1990-91 Growth in Utah Nonfarm Jobs by Industry



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

Economic Events

Please note: Information contained in Economic Events is obtained from regional newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, clipping services, and local area Chamber of Commerce publications.

- Construction has begun on the first phase of a $70 million office project located in South Jordan. The Towers at South Towne is a 600,000 square-foot office park adjacent to Interstate-15 Highway. The first phase consists of a 9-story office building, a 6-story office building, and a banking branch. Layton Construction has the contract. Phase one should take about a year to complete.

- A Springville steel fabricating facility recently announced plans to expand its operation in response to new business dealings. Intermountain Lift is undertaking this expansion to increase its capacity for the fabrication of roller coaster track and support structures for amusement rides.

- A publication released through Arizona State University ranks Provo the number one metropolitan area of its size in creating new jobs over the last year.

- The University of Utah is planning the construction of a new $11.1 million, 100,000 square foot Language and Communications Building. The Salt lake architectural firm of Brixen and Christopher will design the building. Construction is slated to begin in early 1992.

- Petersen Specialized Fabricators of Ogden was awarded a $2 million contract by McDonnell Douglas. The company has contracted to produce assembly tools for the McDonnell Douglas MD-90 fuselage. The company has no current plans to expand its work force.

- Semicon Systems, Inc., has begun its manufacturing operations in the Ogden Industrial park. The company manufactures protective packaging for semiconductor parts, ensuring against damage during shipping. The company expects its work force to grow to 30 people. ❐

While Utah's overall economy avoids its own recession, some counties languish

Following the pattern of the state and the nation, the unemployment rates of most of Utah's counties appear to have peaked, then leveled out or started back down. It is, of course, too soon to conclude that the national recession has ended and that the U.S. economy is recovering, but these early signals are nevertheless encouraging.

Also encouraging is the fact that several counties are experiencing moderate to rapid job growth. Unfortunately, even more counties have the same number of or fewer jobs now than a year ago. Thus, certain areas of Utah are prospering, others are holding their own, but many are struggling.

Cache, Utah, Washington, and Salt Lake counties have prospering economies—as indicated by a combination of low unemployment rates and moderate-to-rapid job growth. Economic diversification seems to be the common denominator of their success. Uintah, Iron, Summit, Grand, Juab, and Duchesne counties also seem to be doing well, but lack the diversity of those previously listed. Their unemployment rates are high by Utah standards, but their job growth is rapid.

In contrast, San Juan, Garfield, Emery, and Kane counties have suffered cutbacks in one or more major industries and consequently show high unemployment rates and fewer jobs than at this time last year. The economies of several other counties, namely Carbon, Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, and Wasatch, are "stagnant" with high un-

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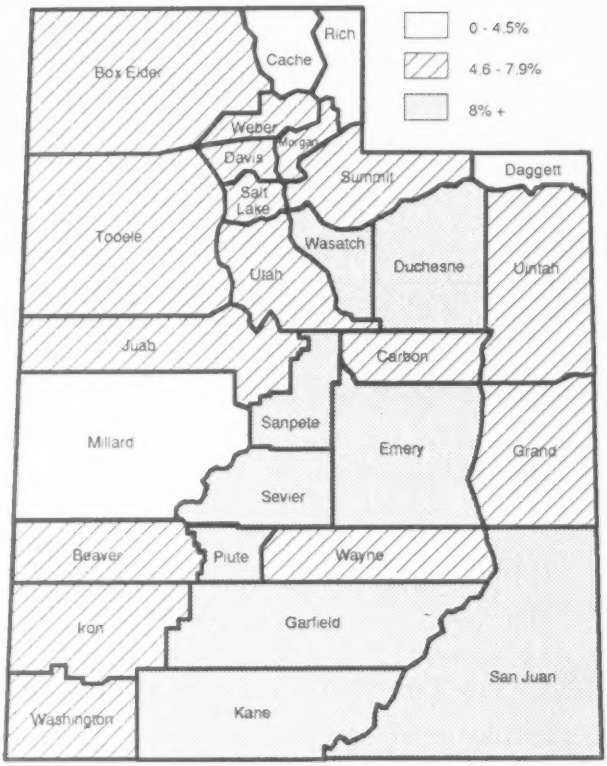

Unemployment Rates September 1991

- ***Unemployment rates in most of Utah's counties appear to have peaked, then leveled out or started back down.***
- ***Certain areas of Utah are prospering, others are holding their own, but many are struggling.***
- ***Cache, Utah, Washington, and Salt Lake counties have prospering economies***
- ***San Juan, Garfield, Emery, and Kane counties have suffered cutbacks in one or more major industries and consequently show high unemployment rates and fewer jobs.***

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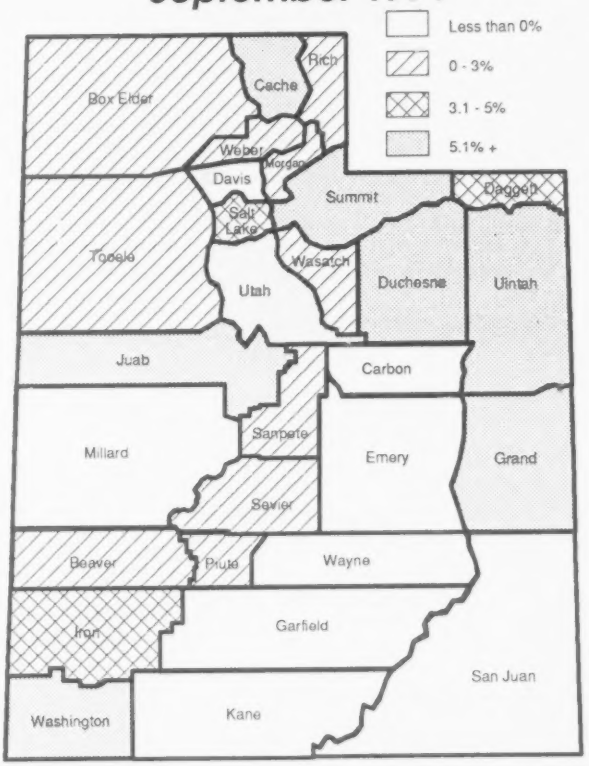
employment rates and minimal job growth.

Another group of counties (Box Elder, Tooele, Millard, Morgan, Beaver, Rich, and Daggett) share the common characteristic of no/slow job growth but minimal-to-moderate unemployment rates. The economies of these counties are also somewhat "stagnant" but announced industry locations in Box Elder County promise it a bright future.

Lastly, Davis and Weber counties are still feeling the effects of cutbacks at Hill Air Force Base. Davis job growth has been stifled but its unemployment rate remains fairly low. In contrast, Weber's unemployment rate, at nearly seven percent, is at a four-year high and far exceeds the rates of Utah's other metropolitan counties.

Kenneth E. Jensen
Labor Market Economist

Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs September 1991



Metro Areas

Table 3. Civilian Labor Force and Nonfarm Jobs for SaltLake/Ogden and Provo/Orem Metropolitan Statistical Areas *(Numbers in Thousands)*

	Salt Lake/Ogden					Provo/Orem				
	Sep 1991(f)	Sep 1990	Percent Change	Aug 1991(p)	Jul 1991(r)	Sep 1991(f)	Sep 1990	Percent Change	Aug 1991(p)	Jul 1991(r)
Civilian Labor Force	**527.2**	**520.2**	**1.3**	**529.5**	**524.8**	**124.8**	**122.5**	**1.9**	**122.1**	**119.8**
Employed	501.0	500.7	0.1	502.1	497.7	119.3	118.7	0.5	116.4	114.2
Unemployed	26.2	19.5	34.4	27.4	27.1	5.5	3.8	44.7	5.7	5.6
Rate	5.0	3.7	——	5.2	5.2	4.4	3.1	——	4.6	4.7
Total Nonfarm Jobs	**516.3**	**502.6**	**2.7**	**510.1**	**506.7**	**103.7**	**97.0**	**6.9**	**99.9**	**97.4**
Mining	3.0	3.0	0.0	2.7	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Construction	23.4	21.9	6.8	23.3	22.2	4.2	3.2	31.1	4.2	3.9
Manufacturing	70.8	70.7	0.1	70.6	70.2	14.7	14.2	3.5	14.4	14.3
Durable	49.1	49.2	-0.2	49.0	48.8	8.9	8.8	1.1	8.7	8.7
Nondurable	21.7	21.5	0.9	21.6	21.4	5.8	5.4	7.4	5.7	5.6
Trans/Comm/Utilities	33.8	33.2	1.8	33.7	33.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	2.5	2.5
Trade	125.3	123.3	1.6	124.0	122.8	24.6	23.1	6.53	24.3	23.3
Wholesale	31.0	31.5	-1.6	30.9	30.8	5.6	4.6	21.7	5.7	5.5
Retail	94.3	91.8	2.7	93.1	92.0	19.0	18.5	2.7	18.6	17.8
Fin/Ins/Real Estate	29.8	28.4	4.9	29.8	29.4	2.4	2.3	4.3	2.4	2.4
Service	130.9	124.7	5.0	130.8	130.1	40.8	37.2	7.5	37.5	37.0
Government	99.3	97.4	2.0	95.2	96.0	15.3	14.6	4.8	14.5	13.9

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

By County

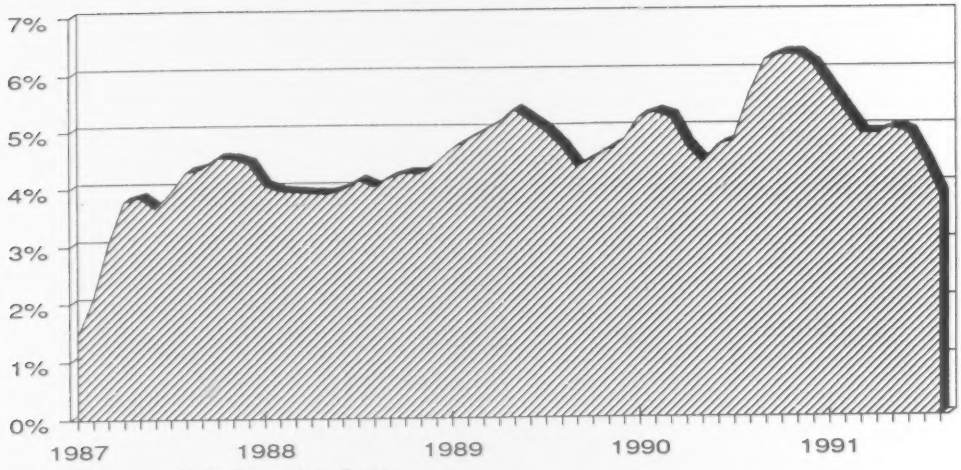
Table 4. Unemployment Rates and Nonfarm Jobs in Utah by County

	Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate				Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs				
	Sept 1991(f)	Aug 1991(p)	July 1991(r)	Sept 1990	Sept 1991(f)	Sept 1990	Percent Change	Aug 1991(p)	July 1991(r)
STATE TOTAL	**5.3**	**5.4**	**5.3**	**4.2**	**761,700**	**737,220**	**3.3**	**749,100**	**741,800**
Bear River	**3.6**	**4.7**	**4.3**	**4.1**	**45,980**	**44,330**	**3.7**	**44,710**	**43,910**
Box Elder	4.7	5.4	4.4	4.5	15,610	15,530	0.5	15,410	15,280
Cache	3.0	4.5	4.3	3.9	29,970	28,400	5.5	28,880	28,190
Rich	3.1	2.4	2.8	2.0	400	400	0.0	420	440
Wasatch Front	**5.2**	**5.2**	**5.2**	**4.1**	**528,080**	**514,060**	**2.7**	**521,550**	**518,140**
Wasatch Front North	**6.0**	**5.9**	**5.7**	**4.9**	**129,490**	**122,900**	**0.5**	**129,330**	**128,340**
Davis	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.1	61,430	61,740	-0.5	61,190	60,820
Morgan	4.8	5.8	7.6	5.9	1,050	1,050	0.0	1,020	1,010
Weber	6.9	6.7	6.3	5.7	67,010	66,110	1.4	67,120	66,510
Wasatch Front South	**4.9**	**4.9**	**5.0**	**3.7**	**398,590**	**385,160**	**3.5**	**392,220**	**389,800**
Salt Lake	4.9	4.9	5.0	3.6	388,020	374,650	3.6	381,720	379,340
Tooele	4.9	6.4	5.7	6.3	10,570	10,510	0.6	10,500	10,460
Mountainland	**5.1**	**4.9**	**4.9**	**3.8**	**113,970**	**106,820**	**6.7**	**110,280**	**107,500**
Summit	7.7	7.5	6.4	6.9	7,580	7,120	6.5	7,750	7,550
Utah	4.8	4.6	4.7	3.5	103,640	97,010	6.8	99,800	97,260
Wasatch	8.9	7.2	7.0	7.0	2,750	2,690	2.2	2,730	2,690
Central	**8.1**	**7.9**	**7.8**	**7.2**	**15,540**	**14,760**	**-1.0**	**15,290**	**15,230**
Juab	7.0	8.1	7.7	12.0	2,050	1,930	6.2	2,040	2,030
Millard	4.5	4.2	5.0	4.1	3,340	3,660	-8.7	3,240	3,210
Piute	10.6	14.6	14.2	11.6	200	200	0.0	200	200
Sanpete	10.5	10.1	9.2	9.0	4,150	4,110	1.0	4,160	4,190
Sevier	9.0	8.0	7.8	5.8	5,210	5,200	0.2	5,090	5,050
Wayne	7.2	8.0	9.0	9.1	590	606	-1.7	560	550
Southwestern	**6.1**	**5.7**	**5.4**	**5.2**	**29,030**	**27,590**	**5.2**	**28,660**	**28,630**
Beaver	4.9	4.0	3.6	5.0	1,340	1,340	2.2	1,390	1,410
Garfield	12.4	15.5	12.2	13.3	1,690	1,750	-2.4	1,700	1,720
Iron	6.2	4.2	4.6	4.3	7,920	7,620	3.9	7,730	7,790
Kane	8.4	9.2	8.4	5.9	1,690	1,780	-5.1	1,670	1,650
Washington	5.5	5.5	5.2	4.9	16,560	1,6100	0.3	16,170	16,060
Uintah Basin	**7.5**	**7.4**	**7.9**	**7.5**	**12,050**	**11,130**	**8.3**	**11,910**	**11,630**
Daggett	2.4	3.7	2.2	1.7	430	410	4.9	420	430
Duchesne	9.5	9.2	8.5	8.7	3,850	3,630	6.1	3,950	3,870
Uintah	6.8	6.6	8.0	7.2	7,770	7,090	9.6	7,540	7,330
Southeastern	**8.5**	**8.4**	**7.9**	**6.9**	**17,080**	**17,610**	**-3.0**	**16,740**	**16,780**
Carbon	7.2	7.7	7.8	5.7	7,650	7,730	-1.0	7,460	7,500
Emery	9.7	9.8	7.5	8.6	3,500	1,700	-7.4	3,420	3,430
Grand	7.9	7.9	7.0	7.6	2,840	2,660	6.8	2,820	2,890
San Juan	10.8	9.2	9.6	7.3	3,090	3,440	-10.2	3,040	2,960
Salt Lake/Ogden MSA	**5.2**	**5.2**	**5.2**	**4.0**	**516,300**	**502,000**	**2.7**	**510,100**	**506,700**
Provo/Orem MSA	**4.8**	**4.6**	**4.7**	**3.5**	**103,640**	**97,010**	**6.8**	**99,800**	**97,260**

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

Note: Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates should not be used for federal or state funding applications.

Year-over Percent Increase in U.S. Consumer Price Index



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PRICES

Table 5. Current U.S. Price Indexes

	INDEX		% CHANGE FROM	
	Aug 1991	Aug 1990	Prior Year	Prior Month
CONSUMER PRICES (1982-84=100)				
ALL ITEMS (CPI-U[1])	**136.6**	**131.6**	**3.8**	**0.3**
Food and Beverages	136.6	132.7	2.9	-0.4
Food at Home	134.9	132.7	1.7	-0.8
Housing	134.5	130.2	3.3	0.2
Rent Residential	143.7	139.4	3.3	0.0
Fuel and Other Utilities	116.2	112.7	3.1	-0.2
Medical Care	178.9	165.0	8.4	0.8
Apparel and Upkeep	127.6	122.2	4.4	1.9
Transportation	123.8	120.6	2.7	0.3
Gasoline	99.3	103.1	-3.7	1.1
Energy[3]	102.9	103.5	-0.7	0.2
PURCHASING POWER OF CONSUMER DOLLAR: (1982-84 = $1.00)	**$0.732**	**$0.760**	**-3.7**	**-0.3**
ALL ITEMS (CPI-W[2])	**134.6**	**129.9**	**3.6**	**0.2**
PRODUCER PRICES (1982 = 100)				
ALL COMMODITIES	**116.2**	**116.5**	**-0.3**	**0.2**
Finished Goods	121.7	119.3	2.0	0.1
Intermediate Materials	114.3	114.4	-0.1	0.3
Crude Materials	99.2	110.2	-10.0	-0.2

1 Consumer Price Index—All Urban Consumers.

2 Consumer Price Index—Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

3 Energy is a special group index consisting of prices paid for the following: fuel oil, coal, bottled gas, electricity, gasoline, and motor oil and coolant. It is not one of the components of the "All Items" as its subcomponents are already included.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statisitcs.

Job Service

Table 6. Employment Security Activities in Utah

	Sept 1991(p)	Sept 1990	Percent Change	Aug 1991
Nonfarm Jobs Available	24,918	24,933	-0.1	21,917
New Applications for Jobs	9,875	9,455	4.4	11,236
Total Nonfarm Job Placements	5,838	7,032	-17.0	6,450
Initial Claims	1,171	894	30.9	1,063
Weeks Claimed	8,320	6,450	29.0	9,079
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.10	0.93	—	1.24
Benefits Paid (Monthly)	$3,927,332	$3,104,775	26.4	$4,581,006

Note: All claims data include Regular UI, UCFE, and UCX claims only and are listed for the week containing the 15th day of the month.

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

New Data, New Publications

The following data and/or publications are now available:

- ☐ **Final First Quarter 1991 Nonfarm Jobs and Wages by county and industry.**
- ☐ **Southwest Utah Wage & Fringe Benefit Survey 1991 (for Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties).**

If you would like to receive copies, please check the desired items and fill in your name and address.

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Mail to: Labor Market Information Services, Utah Department of Employment Security, P.O. Box 11249, Salt Lake City, UT, 84147-0249.

Hours and Earnings

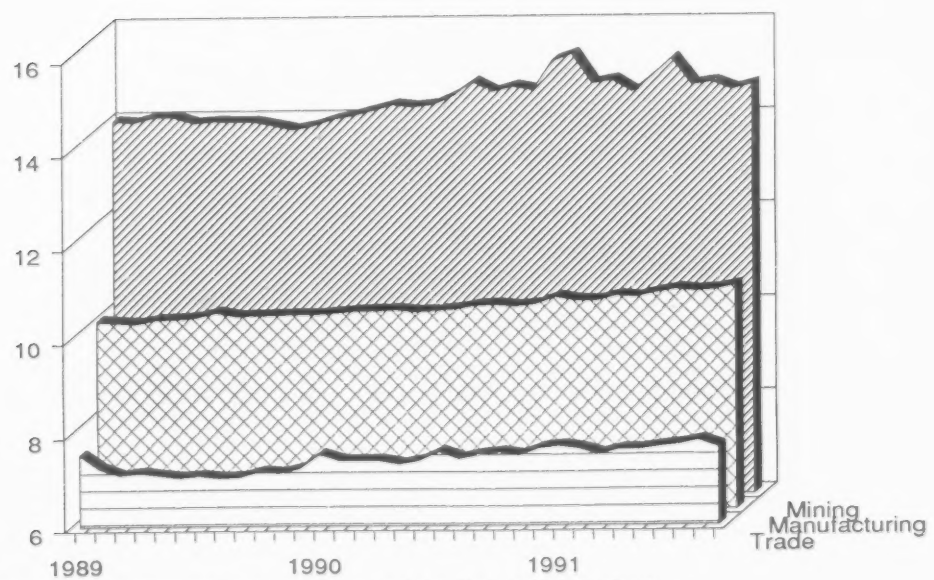
Table 7. Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Utah

	Average Hourly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours			
	Aug 1991(p)	Aug 1990	% Chng	Jul 1990(r)	Aug 1991(p)	Aug 1990	% Chng	Jul 1990(r)
MINING	**14.63**	**14.61**	**0.1**	**14.74**	**42.6**	**43.2**	**-1.4**	**43.7**
Metal Mining	13.44	13.70	-1.9	13.72	44.2	46.8	-5.5	49.6
Bituminous Coal Mining	17.75	17.46	1.7	17.22	39.8	39.3	1.3	40.7
MANUFACTURING	**10.79**	**10.37**	**4.1**	**10.70**	**39.9**	**39.9**	**0.0**	**39.2**
Durable Goods	11.07	10.62	4.2	10.90	39.9	40.0	-0.3	39.2
Primary Metals	13.51	13.29	1.7	13.78	40.3	39.5	2.0	38.4
Fabricated Metal Prod. and Mach.	10.57	9.82	7.6	10.50	40.5	40.0	1.3	39.7
Transportation Equipment	13.44	13.28	1.2	13.21	40.1	41.4	-3.1	39.7
Nondurable Goods	10.25	9.87	3.9	10.31	39.9	39.7	0.5	39.1
Food and Kindred Products	8.92	8.80	1.4	9.24	40.7	40.8	-0.2	40.4
TRADE	**7.66**	**7.45**	**2.8**	**7.81**	**29.1**	**30.0**	**-3.0**	**29.2**
Wholesale	10.42	9.88	5.5	10.53	37.2	39.4	-5.6	39.1
Retail	6.66	6.50	2.5	6.75	27.0	27.5	-1.8	26.6
Food Stores	6.87	6.19	11.0	6.58	26.4	26.0	1.5	26.3
General Merchandise	6.22	6.19	0.5	6.22	29.0	28.1	3.2	27.2

Note: Average hours include hours actually worked or remunerated. Average hourly earnings include incentive and premium pay. Data may be affected by labor disputes.

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average Hourly Wage for Selected Industries



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

Utah's Labor Force—What is it Really Like?

Often, Utahns think they are markedly different than the rest of the nation. Just how do the State's citizens compare? Some of the answers may surprise you.

Much of what we know about the Utah labor force on a yearly basis comes from the Current Population Survey (CPS). This national survey is conducted monthly by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In Utah, about 600 households are surveyed each month. The data collected from these interviews supplies information on how many Utahns work, what industries they work in, how many hours they worked, how many were unemployed, what kinds of jobs they do, and so on.

Unfortunately, the CPS doesn't tell us *everything* we want to know. It doesn't supply good wage information—a subject most people find interesting. The CPS sample size in Utah just isn't large enough to provide statistically reliable wage information. For detailed wage information by occupation and sex, you just have to wait for the 1990 Census data to be released. However, the CPS does provide an interesting view of Utah's labor force panorama—and some clues to the reasons behind the State's recent national media popularity.

What did Utah's Labor Force Look Like in 1990?

In 1990, roughly 71 percent of the State's civilian, noninstitutionalized population—over the age of 15—participated in the labor force during the year. ("Noninstitutionalized" means people who are not in jail or other "institutions.") This "participation rate" ranks significantly higher than the national average of 66 percent. Both Utah women (61 percent) and Utah men (81 percent) take part in the labor market in greater percentages than

- ***Both Utah women (61 percent) and Utah men (81 percent) take part in the labor market in greater percentages than their national counterparts (58 and 76 percent respectively).***
- ***In Utah, 68 percent of 16-19 year olds are working or looking for work compared with 54 percent nationally.***
- ***In 1990, generally, the older the Utahn, the less likely that Utahn was unemployed.***
- ***Only 11 percent of the unemployed in 1990 had lost their job through layoffs.***
- ***An average of 34,000 Utahns were out of work each month in 1990.***
- ***Utah's part-time workers make-up nearly one-fourth of the labor force. That share is significantly higher than the national average of 17 percent.***
- ***Utahns working full-time schedules put in an average of 48 hours a week—4.5 more hours a week than their national counterparts.***

Continued on page 14

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their national counterparts (58 and 76 percent respectively).

Who works?

Not surprisingly, individuals between the ages of 20 and 54 are most likely to be in the work force. The participation rate for this group averages about 80 percent. Men between the ages of 25 and 34 were the most likely to work—97 percent were labor force members. However, women between the ages of 20 and 24 participated in the labor force at the highest rate—76 percent.

Returning to the Nest?

Between 1980 and 1989, female participation in the labor force increased dramatically. However, in 1990, female participation actually dropped slightly. Are mothers leaving the workforce to take care of the nest? The answer is unclear for Utah—the CPS doesn't supply participation rates for Utah mothers. However, the CPS does indicate that a higher percentage of wives were working outside the home in 1990 than in 1989. The decline in female participation occurred in the widowed/divorced/separated category.

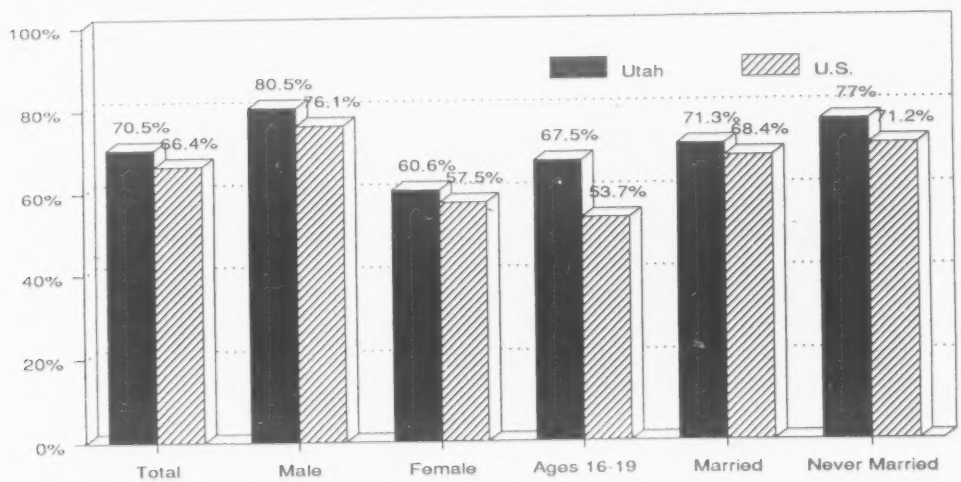
More Likely to Work

Just why are Utahns more likely to work than their national counterparts? Is it just Utah's much touted work ethic? Utah has a relatively young population, and young people are most likely to work—particularly given recent trends toward early retirement. Plus, Utah's young people are much more likely to work than U.S. teenagers in general. In Utah, 68 percent of 16-19 year olds are working or looking for work compared with 54 percent nationally. In addition, Utah's relatively large families and lower than average wages may require families to include more than one wage earner. These factors coupled with Utahns' relatively higher education levels and "work ethic" account for most of the difference between Utah and U.S. participation rates.

The Marriage Factor

Single (never married) Utahns are most likely to work—77 percent participate in the labor force. However, never married men (79 percent) are less likely to work than married men (82 percent), while single women (75 percent) are more likely to work than married females (60 percent). Those in the "other marital status" group (separated, divorced, widowed) are least likely (of both sexes) to be labor force members—50 percent of women and 73 percent of men. Of course, this "other" group includes a larger

Labor Force Participation Rates



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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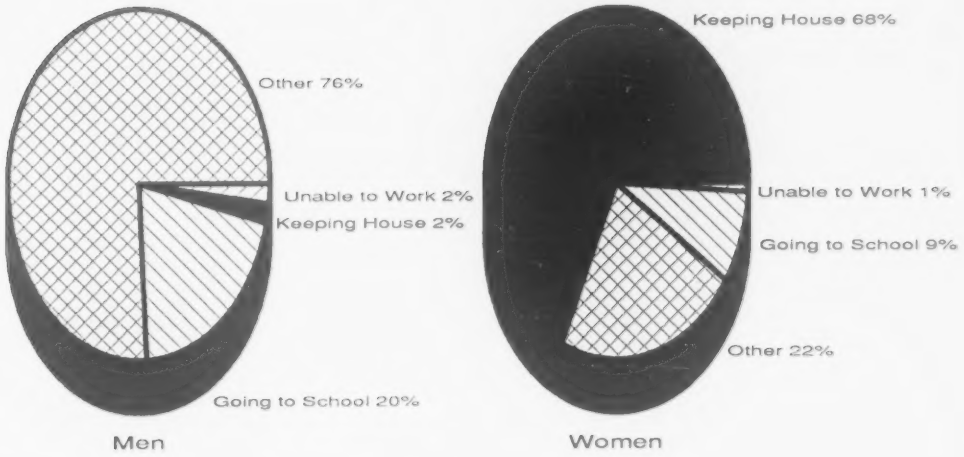
Utahns Not in the Labor Force



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

number of older people—participation rates include those over 65 years of age.

Who's Unemployed?

In 1990, generally, the older the Utahn, the less likely that Utahn was unemployed. Teenagers experienced an unemployment rate of 11.2 percent, compared to an unemployment rate of 2.1 percent for those over 65. The one exception to this rule was 35-44 year-olds. Their unemployment rate registered 4.1 percent in 1990—higher than the rate for 25-34 year-olds (2.7 percent). Whites generally experienced lower unemployment rates than nonwhites, men experienced lower unemployment than women, and married people experienced lower unemployment than unmarrieds.

Why are They Unemployed?

Why were the State's jobless citizens out of work? About 11 percent of the unemployed in 1990 had lost their job through layoffs. Another 27 percent lost their jobs for other reasons. Roughly 18 percent of jobless Utahns left their job of their own accord. New entrants to the labor market and Utahns looking for temporary work each accounted for 9 percent of the total unemployed. Another 29 percent were looking for work after being out of the work force for a time (90 percent of these individuals last worked more than 5 years ago).

How Long Does it Last?

An annual average of 34,000 Utahns were out of work each month in 1990. How long did their bouts of unemployment last? Half of these individuals went back to work within a month. Altogether, jobless workers averaged an 11.5 week spell of unemployment. Less than 6 percent of the unemployed had been out of work longer than a year. Women suffered shorter spells of unemployment (10.5 weeks) than did men (13.1 weeks).

Why Doesn't Everyone Work?

About 331,000 Utahns chose to stay out of the work force in 1990. These people didn't have a job and weren't looking for one. Why? About 70 percent of nonworking women kept house in 1990 (83 percent of married nonworking women), 9 percent were in school, 1 percent were unable to work, and 22 percent cited "other reasons". Nonworking Utah men have significantly different reasons for removing themselves from the labor market. Only 2 percent of nonworking

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men stayed home to keep house in 1990, 20 percent were in school, 2 percent were unable to work and 75 percent stated "other reasons" (which includes retirement).

Full or Part-time?

Utah's part-time workers make-up nearly one-fourth of the labor force. That share is significantly higher than the national average of 17 percent. Although Utah men are more likely to work part-time than their national counterparts, the real difference comes from differences in female part-time participation. Almost one-third Utah female labor force participants work part-time compared to about one-fourth nationally. Apparently, many Utah women are working part-time in order to successfully combine work and family responsibilities. In addition, Utah's high percentage of working teenagers helps keep the part-time rate high.

Working Nine to Five?

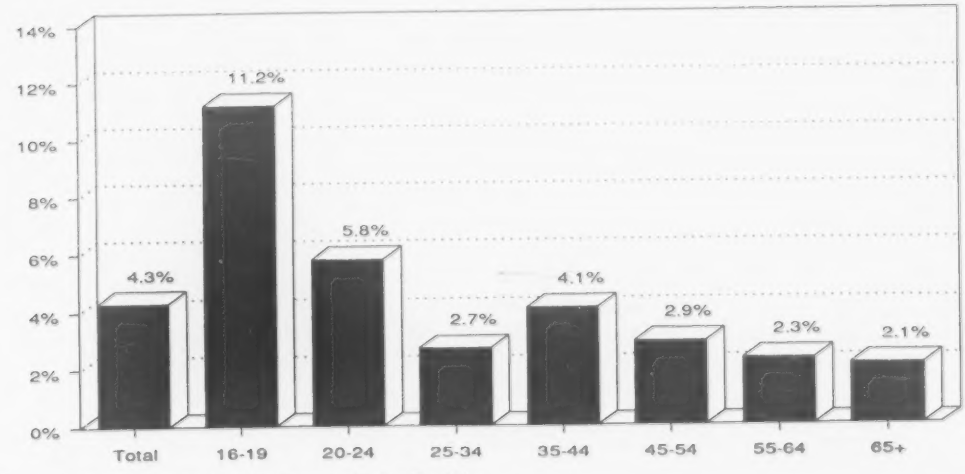
Employed Utahns worked an average of nearly 39 hours a week in 1990. However, Utahns working full-time schedules put in an average of 48 hours a week—4.5 more hours a week than their national counterparts. Women on full-time schedules tended to work less hours than men—49 hours for men contrasted to 46 hours for women. Greater than 30 percent of all working Utahns put in more than 40 hours a week.

What Do They Do?

Perhaps remarkably, the broad occupational breakdown in Utah almost matches that of the U.S. About one-fourth of employed Utahns work in executive, managerial or professional jobs; about one-third work in technical/sales/administrative support positions; about 14 percent work in service occupations; a little more than one-fourth work in "blue collar" jobs; and only 3 percent work in fishing/farming/forestry positions.

Occupational breakdowns vary significantly by sex in some areas, but little in others. Men are slightly more likely to work in executive/managerial/professional jobs than are Utah women. On the other hand, women are much more likely to work in administrative support (clerical) jobs—more than 30 percent of Utah working women work in administrative support positions compared to 7 percent of working Utah males. Women are also more likely to work in service occupations, while Utah men show a higher propensity to work in "blue collar" positions.

Utah 1990 Unemployment Rates by Age



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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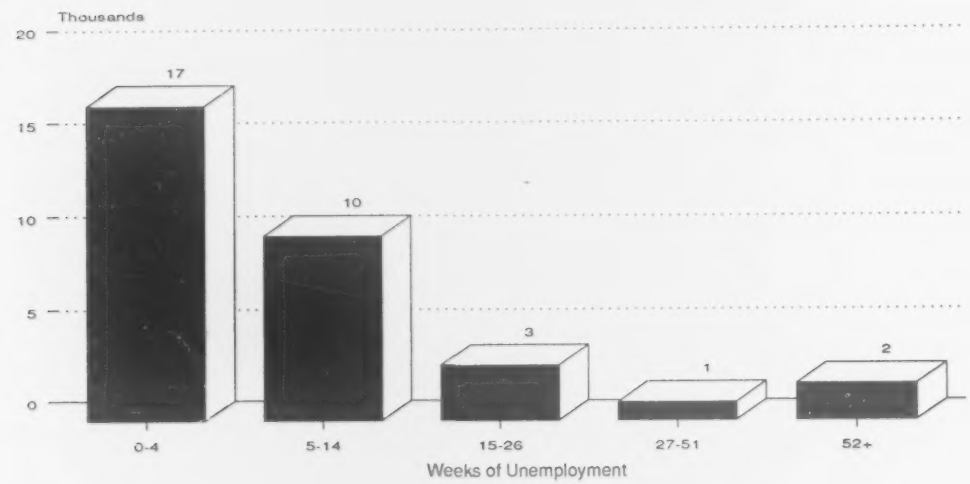
1990 Jobless Utahns by Duration of Unemployment



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Which occupations experienced the least unemployment? Joblessness in professional positions registered less than 2 percent. In addition, executives/managers, technical, and administrative support jobs all felt jobless rates near 3 percent. On the other end of the scale, private household workers and transportation/material moving workers experienced unemployment rates greater than 6 percent.

Where Do They Work?

Roughly 97 percent of experienced Utah workers are employed in nonagricultural industries. Trade, services, and government each employ about one-fifth of the experienced labor force. Government employs a noticeably larger share of individuals in Utah than it does in the nation generally. This stems from the State's large school age population which requires a large number of jobs in the educational sector. Manufacturing employs another 16 percent of experienced Utah workers. Smaller sectors include mining (less than 1 percent), construction (4 percent), transportation/communications/utilities (7 percent), and finance/insurance/real estate (5 percent). Agriculture accounts for only 3 percent of experienced workers, while about 8 percent of Utahns are self-employed.

A Final Word

All in all, Utah's labor force is a fascinating statistical animal. While the State parallels the nation in some areas, it remains peculiar in others. That peculiarity—particularly Utah's relatively young work force and strong work ethic—seems to be attracting business (and attention) to the State. Understanding Utah's labor force provides a starting point for analyzing the State's strengths and weaknesses in the current business climate.❐

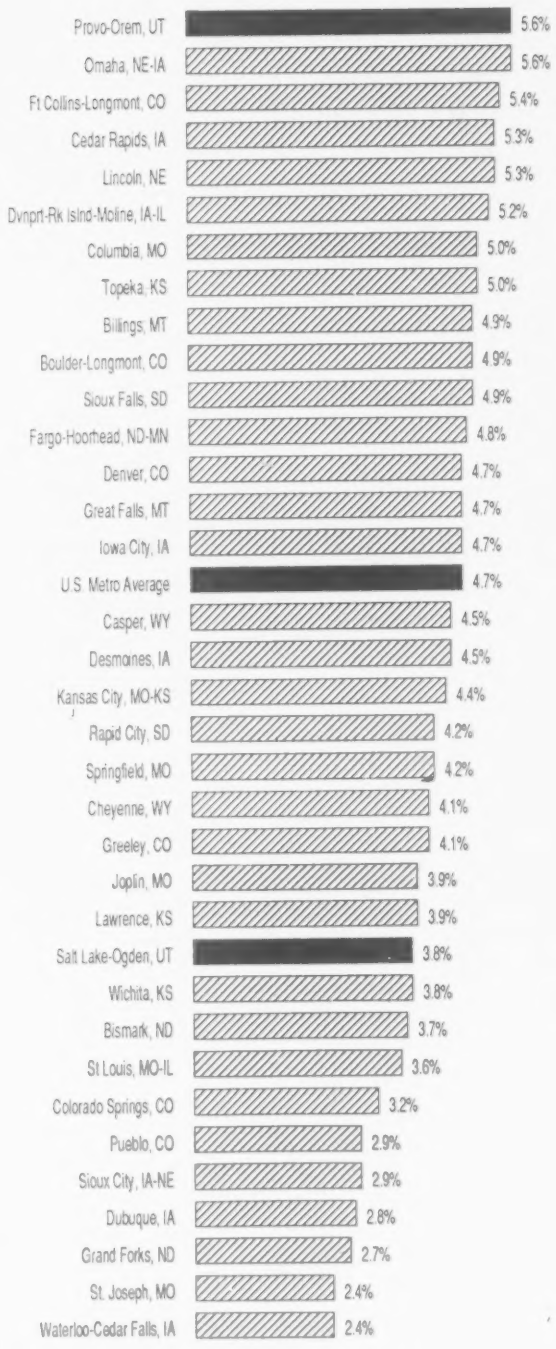
Lecia Parks Langston
Chief Economist

Provo-Orem leads the Mountain-Plains Region

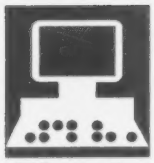
The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently announced that the Provo-Orem metropolitan area tied with the Omaha metro area for the fastest 1989-1990 percentage growth in average annual pay in the Mountain-Plains Region (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). Both Provo-Orem and Omaha produced 1990 growth rates of 5.6 percent. The national metro average for 1989-1990 pay increases registered 4.7 percent. The Salt Lake-Ogden metropolitan area experienced an increase of 3.8 percent.

In comparison with the 320 metropolitan areas nation-wide, Provo-Orem ranked 56, while Salt Lake Ogden ranked 228. However, 1990 average annual pay in the Provo-Orem area equaled $18,721—only 75 percent of the average for U.S. metro areas. Provo-Orem ranked 275 out of the 320 areas. Salt Lake-Ogden average annual pay for 1990 registered $20,781—84 percent of the metro average—for a ranking of 186.❐

1989-90 Growth In Mountain-Plains Metro Pay



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Electronic Bulletin Board Service

We are continuing to add data to our electronic bulletin board service! You can access employment, unemployment, affirmative action, and consumer/producer price indices at the touch of personal computer button. The service is free and can be accessed via a statewide "800" number. Contact Dwight Norris at (801) 536-7835 for more information.❐

Data Definitions

(f)—forecast.

(p)—preliminary.

(r)—revised.

Salt Lake/Ogden Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties.

Provo/Orem Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Utah County.

Employed Persons—Civilians who did any work as paid employees, worked more than 15 hours as unpaid workers in a family business, or were temporarily absent from work because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes. Each person is counted only once.

Unemployed Persons—Civilians who had no employment, were available for work, and made specific efforts to find work sometime during the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job or waiting to report for a new job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Civilian Labor Force—Employed persons plus unemployed persons. Individuals are counted by place of residence.

Unemployment Rate—Unemployed persons as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Employment—A count of jobs by place of work for the pay period including the 12th of the month. Excludes proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid/volunteer workers, military personnel, Central Intelligence Agency employees, and employees of the National Security Agency. Includes salaried officers of corporations.

Production and Related Workers—Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers closely associated with the production process.

Average Weekly Hours—The average hours for which pay was received during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Includes paid holidays, vacations, and sick leave.

Average Weekly Earnings—Includes hourly and incentive pay and is reported before deductions. Includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacation, and sick leave.

Initial Claims—Requests by individuals following a period of unemployment to determine entitlement to compensation under unemployment compensation laws .

Weeks Claimed—Requests for weekly unemployment insurance benefits filed by claimants.

Insured Unemployment Rate—The ratio of (1) the number of weeks claimed by individuals under the unemployment compensation program to (2) average employment covered by the program.

Reserve Fund Balance—Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to pay unemployment compensation benefits.

Utah Labor Market Report

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William R. Horner, Director, Labor Market Information Services

Lecia Parks Langston, Chief Economist

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